



# *High Energy Density, Asymmetric Supercapacitors*

**Priyanka Pande, Paul Rasmussen and Levi Thompson**

University of Michigan

**Saemin Choi and Stefan Heinemann**

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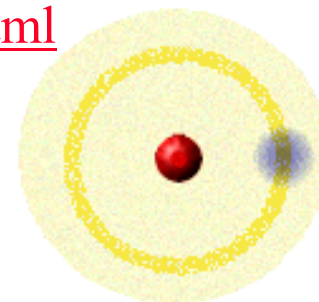
**Yi Ding**

TARDEC

[ltt@umich.edu](mailto:ltt@umich.edu)

[www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cheme/people/thompson/ltt.html](http://www.engin.umich.edu/dept/cheme/people/thompson/ltt.html)

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# Objectives and Tasks

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## **Objectives for the project:**

- Explore methods to maximize properties of nitride or carbide based active materials;
- Develop methods for fabrication of cathodes containing high surface area nitrides or carbides, and anodes containing Mn or Ni oxides;
- Design and assemble asymmetric prototype cells using appropriate electrolytes;
- Evaluate the performance of prototype for technologically relevant load profiles.

## **Tasks for funding cycle:**

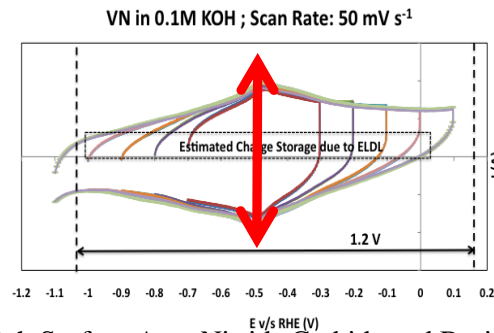
- Fabricate prototype cells incorporating nitride and oxide electrode materials;
- Characterize prototype functional properties including capacitance, energy density and coulombic efficiency;
- Characterize prototype functional properties including cycle-life and low temperature tolerance



# Asymmetric Capacitor Design

- High Surface Area Electrodes → Enhanced Capacitance

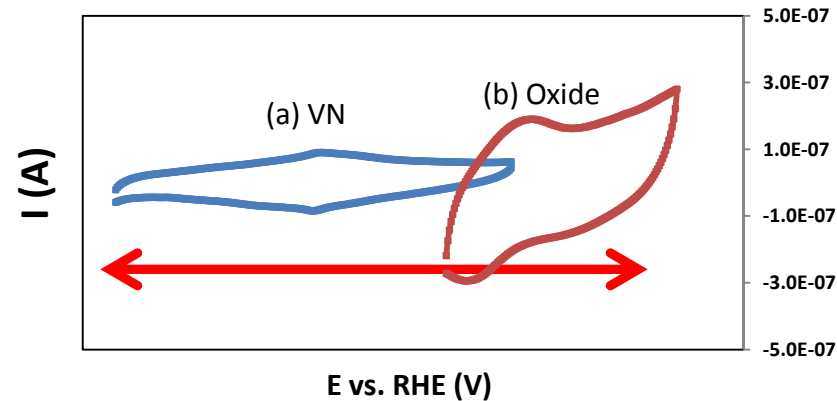
$$E = \frac{CV^2}{2}$$



- US 5,680,292 High Surface Area Nitride Carbide and Boride Electrodes and Methods of Fabrication Thereof
- US 5,837,630 High Surface Area Mesoporous Desigel materials and Methods for Their Fabrication

- Asymmetric Design → Widened Potential Window

$$E = \frac{CV^2}{2}$$

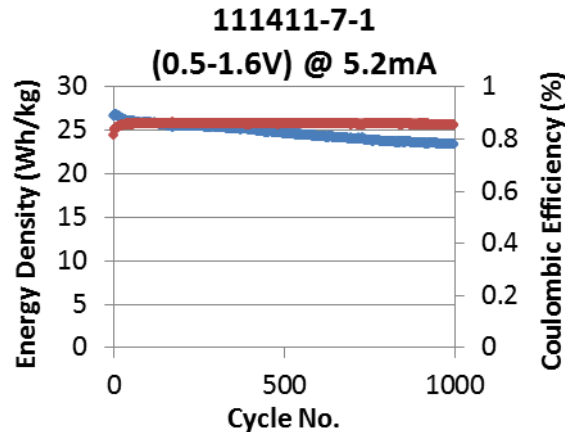


- US Patent Pending High Performance Transition Metal Carbides/Nitrides based Asymmetric Capacitors

- Aqueous Electrolytes → Cheap, Non-flammable and high ionic conductivity



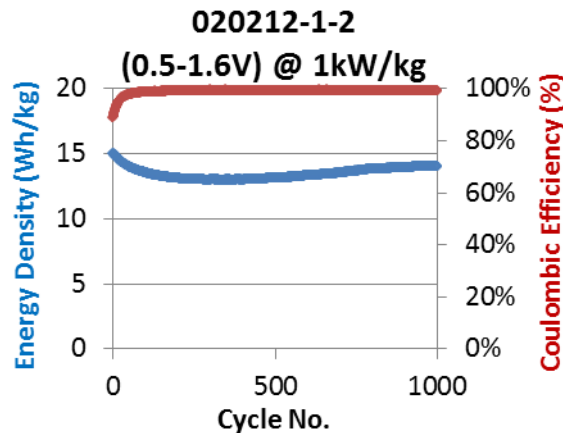
# Asymmetric Capacitors



Cell #	NiOOH (mg)	VN (mg)	Mass Ratio	A/g	Potential (V)	Wh/kg* @1000 cycle
111411-7-1	2.6	2.6	1.0	1.0	1.6 - 0.5	23.4

\* Based on active material using button cell.

1. PVDF as binder
2. Ni current collector



Cell #	NiOOH (mg)	VN (mg)	Mass Ratio	Potential (V)	Wh/kg* @ 1 kW/kg* & 1000 cycle
020212-1-2	69.1	65.0	1.1	0.5-1.6V	14.1

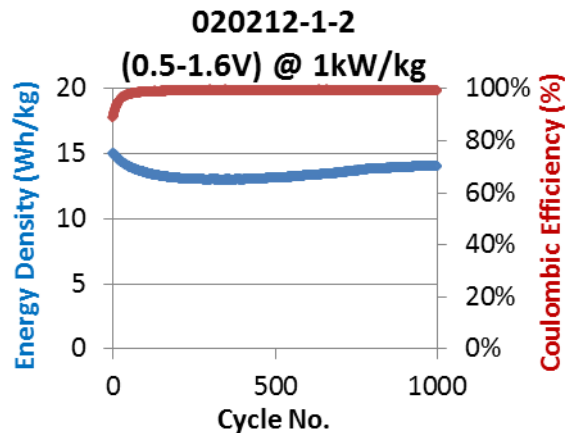
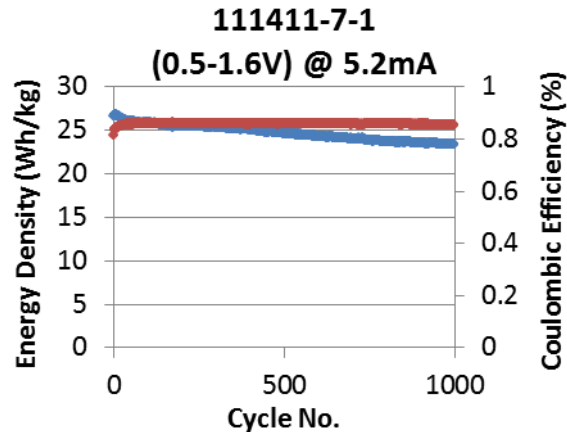
\* Based on active material using button cell.

1. PTFE (Teflon) as binder
2. Ni foam current collector

Optimize components (e.g. binder, foam) and processes (e.g. mass ratio)



# Asymmetric Capacitors



## Anticipated Performance

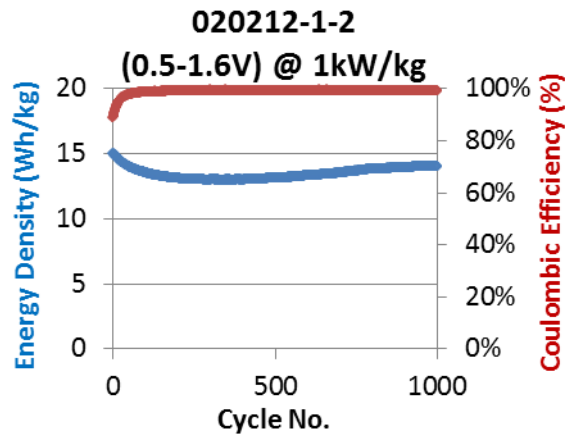
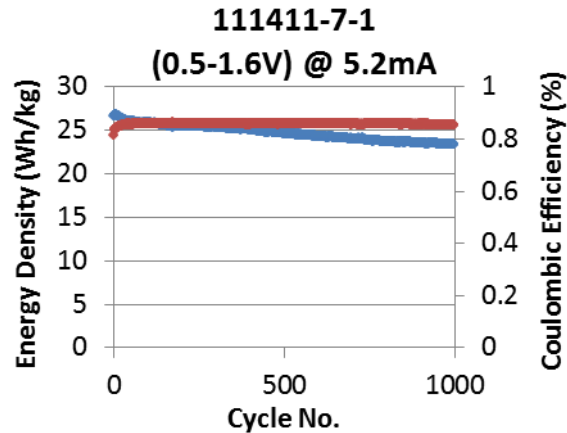
Cell Dimensions	5.1 cm x 7.6 cm x 2.1 mm
Cell Weight	22.9 g
Cell Volume	7.8 ml
Total Active Material	7.9 g
# of Electrode Pairs	3
Total Energy	0.1 Wh
Gravimetric Energy*	4.8 Wh/kg
Volumetric Energy*	14.2 Wh/L
Packaging Efficiency	35%
Peak Power	1728 W/kg

\* Power density of 1 kW/kg (per active material)

Optimize components (e.g. binder, foam) and processes (e.g. mass ratio)



# Asymmetric Capacitors



Optimize components (e.g. binder, foam) and processes (e.g. mass ratio)

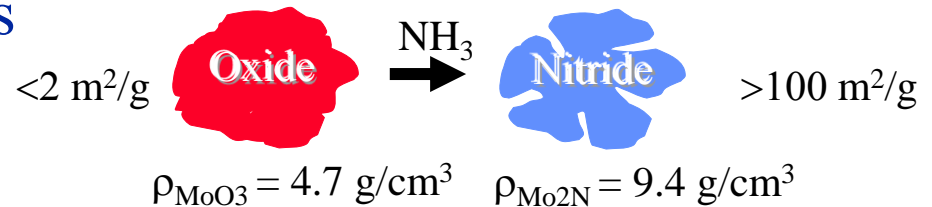


# VN Synthesis

- High surface area nitrides and carbides

- Pseudomorphic reactions

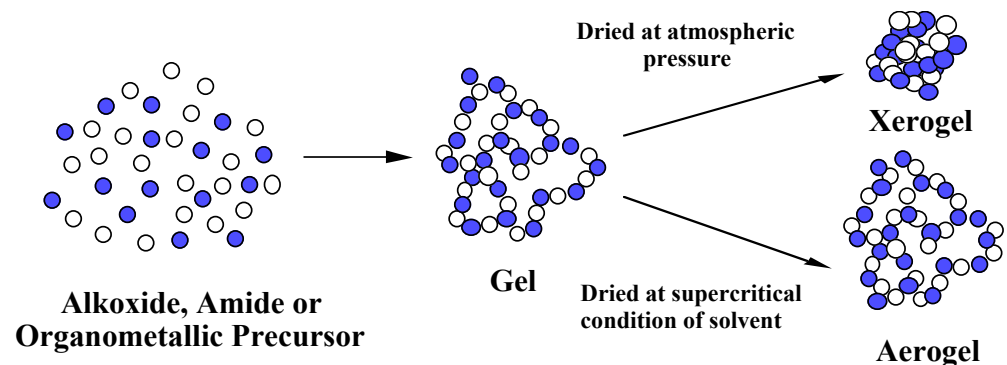
*Volpe and Boudart, 1985*



- Solution Chemical Methods

- Sol-gel synthesis

*Thompson et al, 1998*



- Urea method

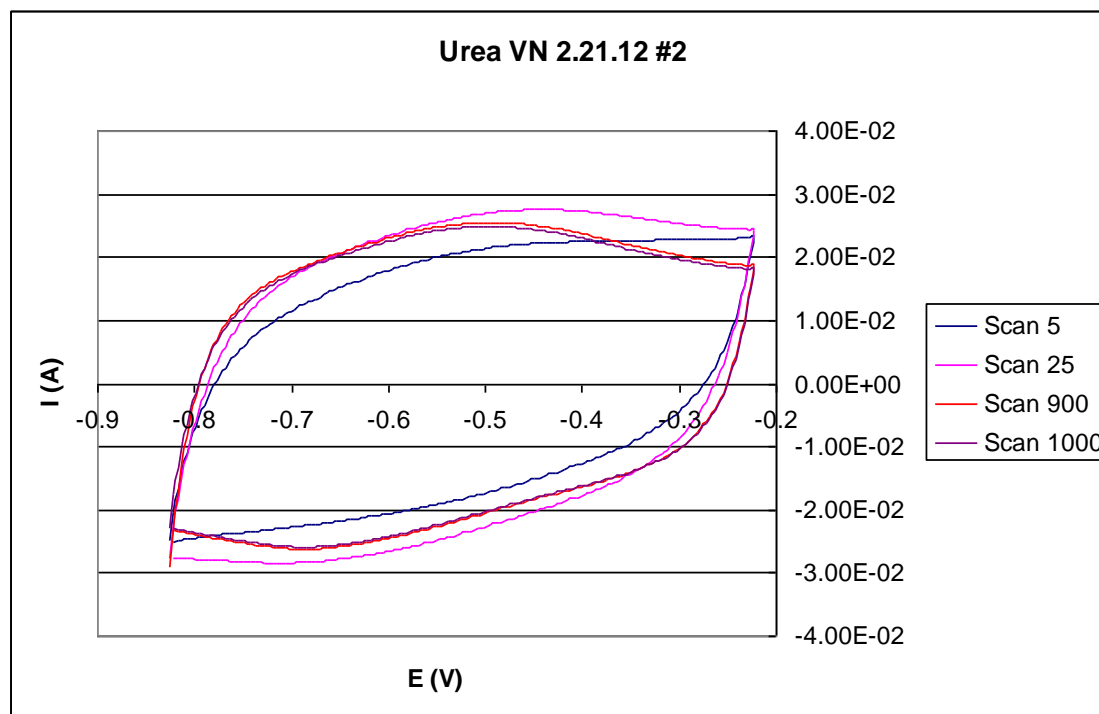
- Ethanol, vanadium oxy-trichloride ( $\text{VOCl}_3$ ) and urea
- Age for 12-18 hr
- Heat to  $800^\circ\text{C}$  @  $3^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  for 3 hours under flowing  $\text{N}_2$





# Synthesis of VN

- Surface area: 222 m<sup>2</sup>/g
- Capacitance: 239 F/g



1M potassium hydroxide  
Hg/HgO reference electrode  
Platinum counter electrode  
50 mV/s



# Charge Storage Mechanism

Material	Stability Window (V)	Capacitance (F/g)	Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)
VN	1.1 (KOH)	210	38
VC	0.8 (KOH)	2.6	6
Mo <sub>2</sub> N	0.8 (H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> )	346	152
W <sub>2</sub> C	0.7 (H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> )	79	16
W <sub>2</sub> N	0.8 (KOH)	25	42

- Double-layer capacitance typically  $\sim 25 \mu\text{F}/\text{cm}^2$  ( $0.25 \text{ F}/\text{m}^2$ )

<sup>1</sup>Conway B E; *Electrochemical Supercapacitors*; (1999).

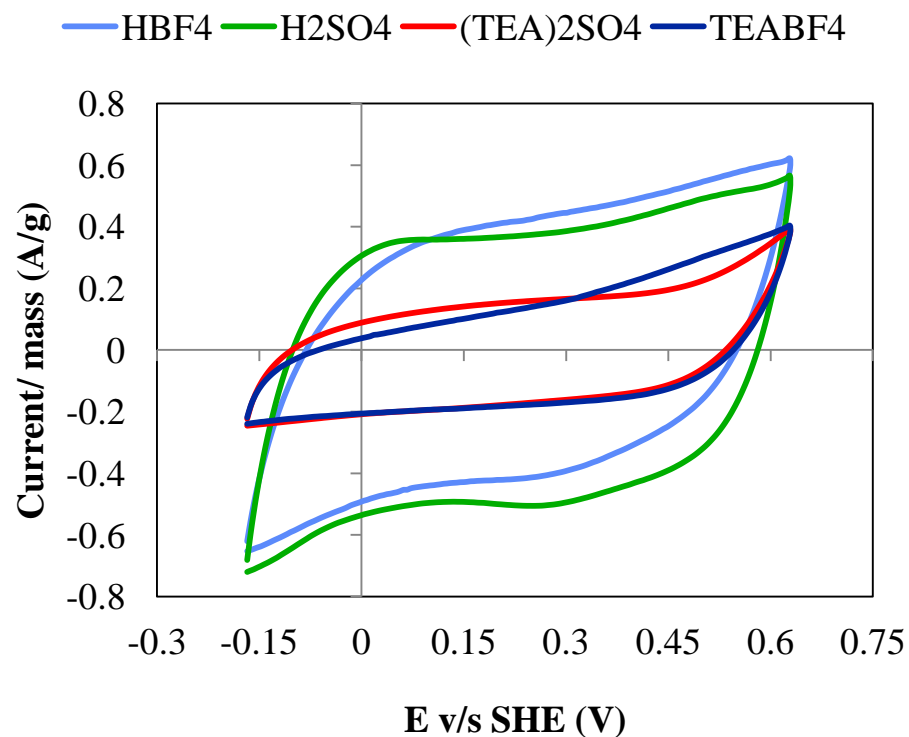
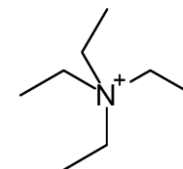


# Storage Mechanism: Ion Isolation

$\text{Mo}_2\text{N}$

ANION \ CATION	$(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$	$(\text{BF}_4)^-$
$\text{H}^+$	$\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ pH: 1.3 0.1M	$\text{HBF}_4$ pH: 1.3 0.1M
$(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N}^+$	$(\text{TEA})_2\text{SO}_4$ pH: 4.9 0.1M	$\text{TEA-BF}_4$ pH: 4.2 0.3M

Tetraethylammonium<sup>+</sup>



Constant ionic strength/ pH  
Scan rate: 2 mV/s

Pande et al., JECS (2011)

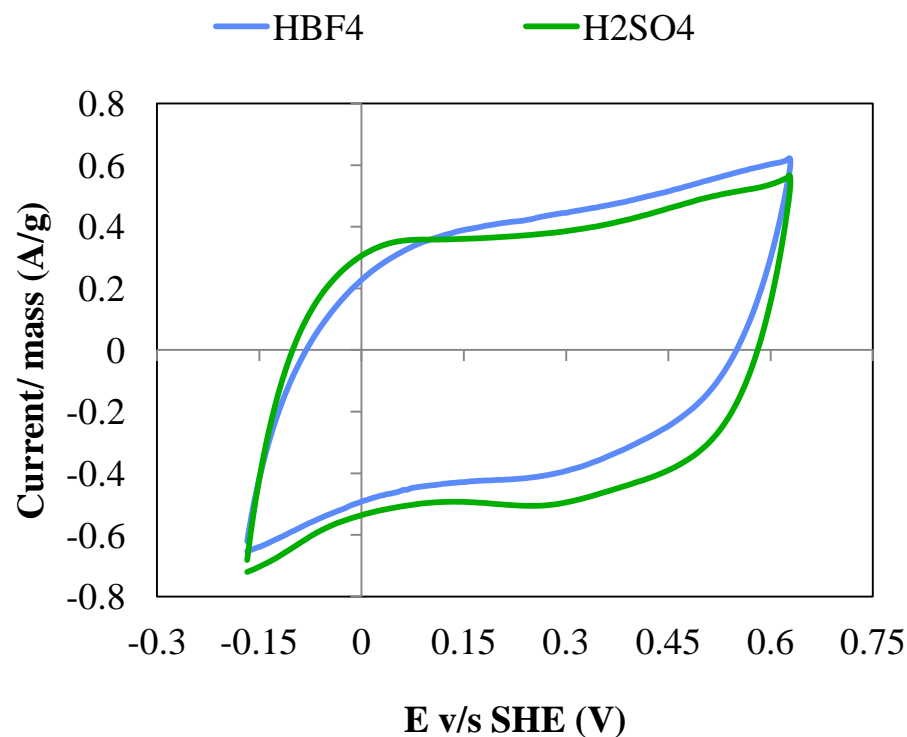
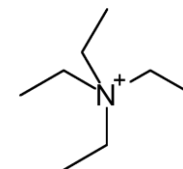


# Storage Mechanism: Ion Isolation

**Mo<sub>2</sub>N**

ANION \ CATION	(SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>2-</sup>	(BF <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>-</sup>
H <sup>+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> pH: 1.3 0.1M	HBf <sub>4</sub> pH: 1.3 0.1M
(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> N <sup>+</sup>	(TEA) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> pH: 4.9 0.1M	TEA-BF <sub>4</sub> pH: 4.2 0.3M

Tetraethylammonium<sup>+</sup>



Constant ionic strength/ pH  
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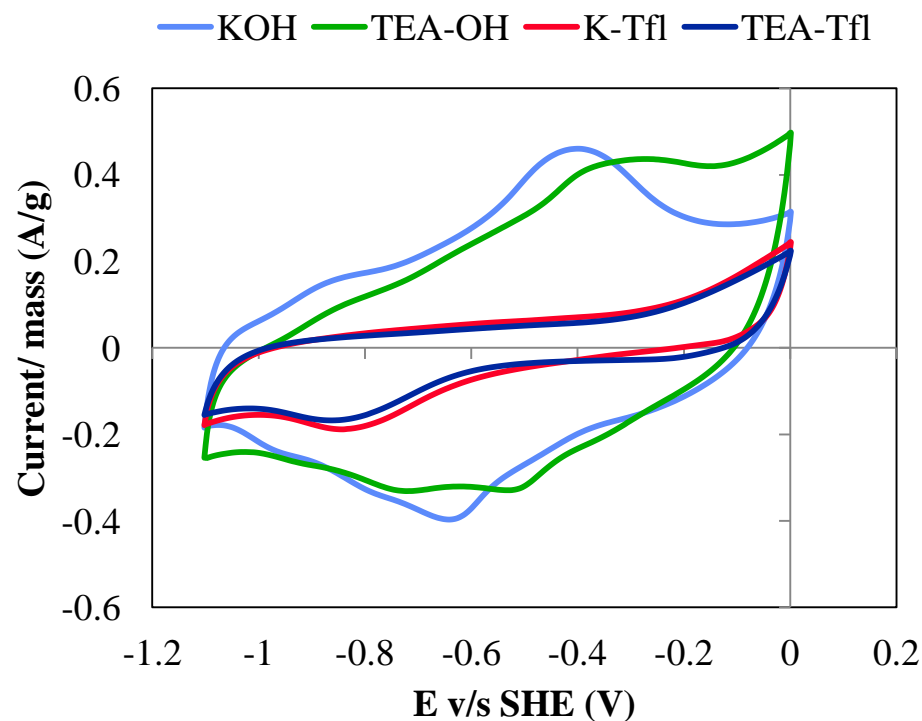


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# Storage Mechanism: Ion Isolation

VN

ANION \ CATION	(OH) <sup>-</sup>	(CF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>-</sup>
K <sup>+</sup>	KOH pH: 12.8 0.1M	K-TfI pH: 9.3 0.1M
(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> N <sup>+</sup>	TEA-OH pH: 12.9 0.1M	TEA-TfI pH: 8.1 0.1M



Constant ionic strength/ pH  
Scan rate: 2 mV/s

Pande et al., JECS (2011)

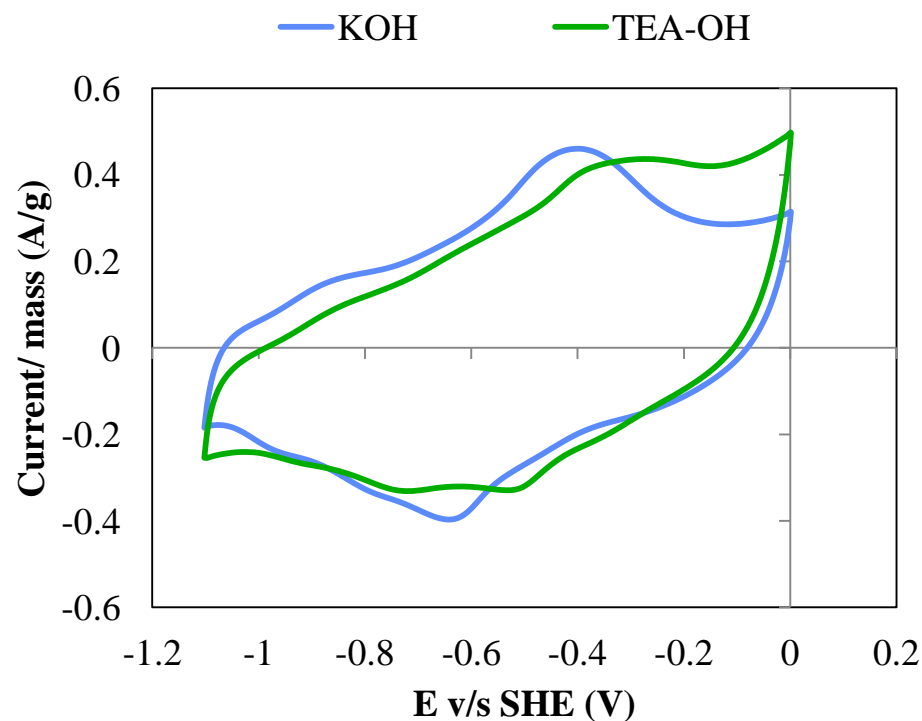
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# Storage Mechanism: Ion Isolation

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ANION \ CATION	(OH) <sup>-</sup>	(CF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>-</sup>
K <sup>+</sup>	KOH pH: 12.8 0.1M	K-TfI pH: 9.3 0.1M
(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> N <sup>+</sup>	TEA-OH pH: 12.9 0.1M	TEA-TfI pH: 8.1 0.1M

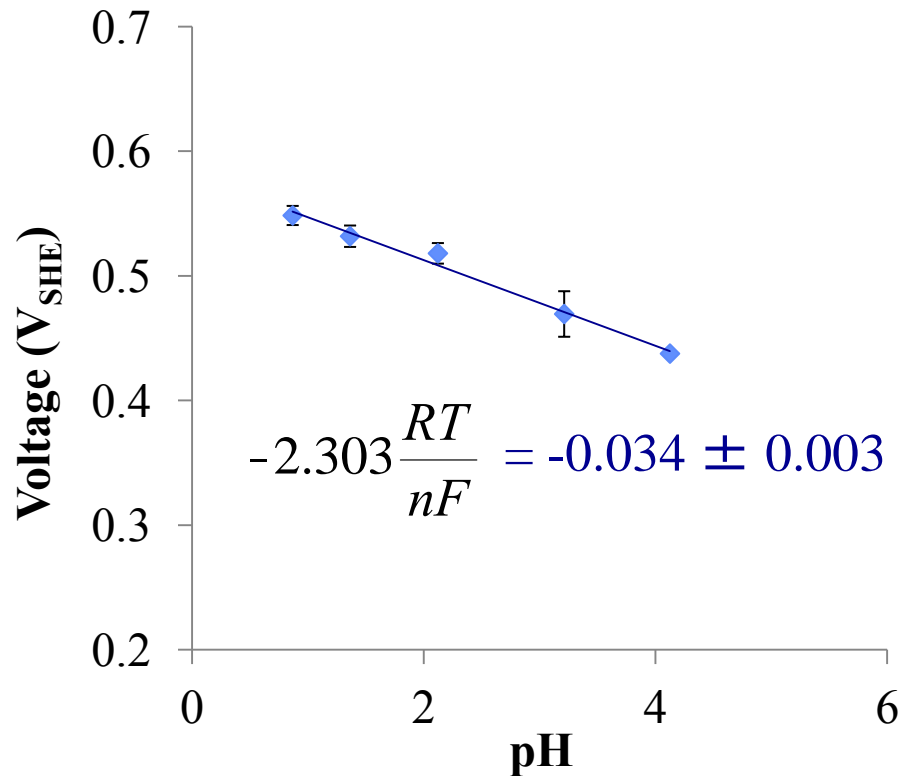
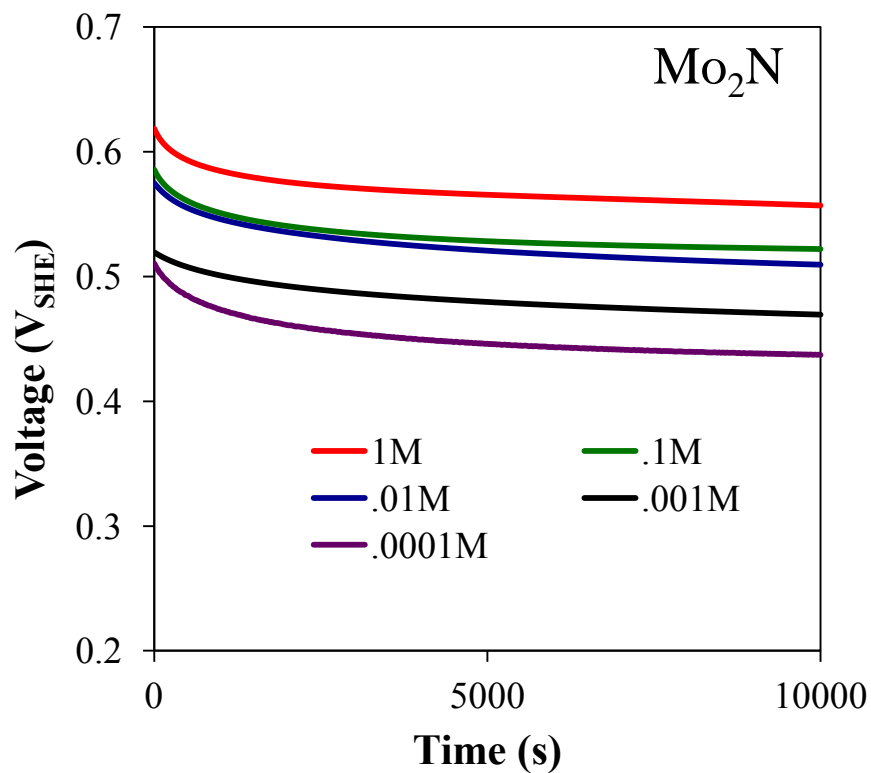


Constant ionic strength/ pH  
Scan rate: 2 mV/s

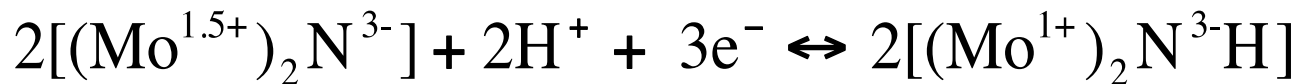
Pande et al., JECS (2011)



# Storage Mechanism: Charge Transfer

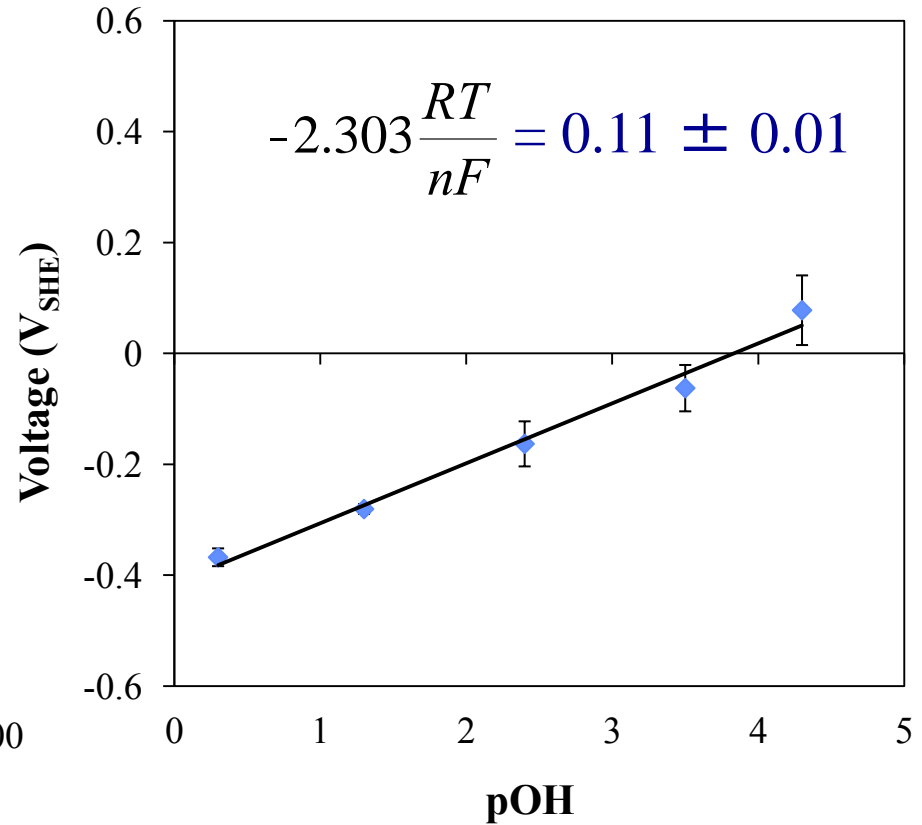
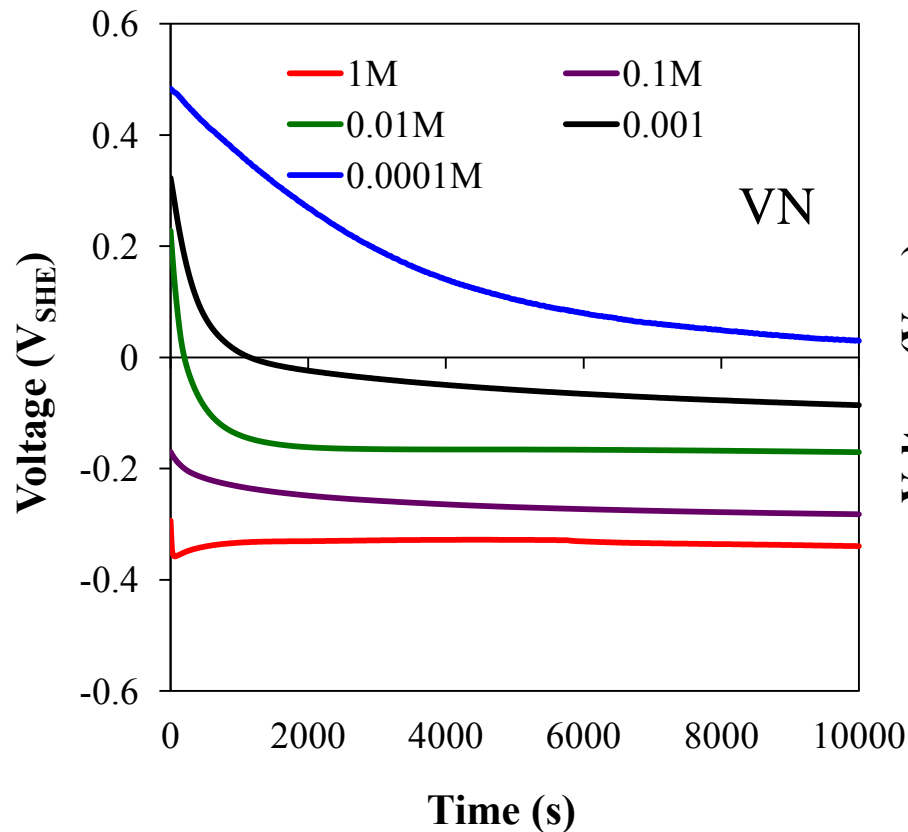


$$n = 1.7 \pm 0.2 \longrightarrow 1.5$$

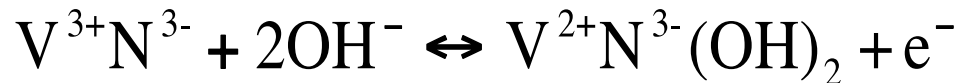




# Storage Mechanism: Charge Transfer



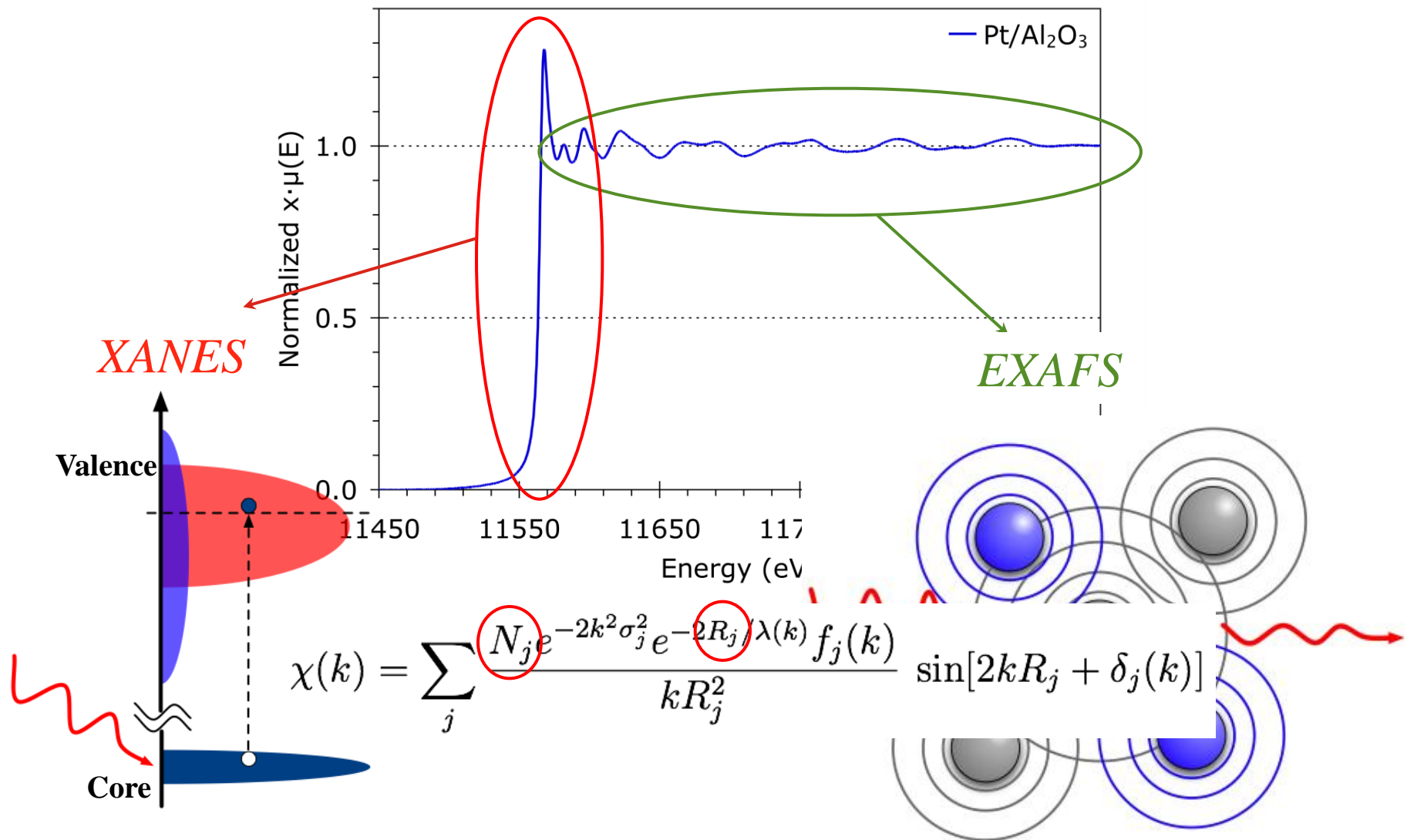
$$n = 0.54 \pm 0.08 \longrightarrow 0.5$$





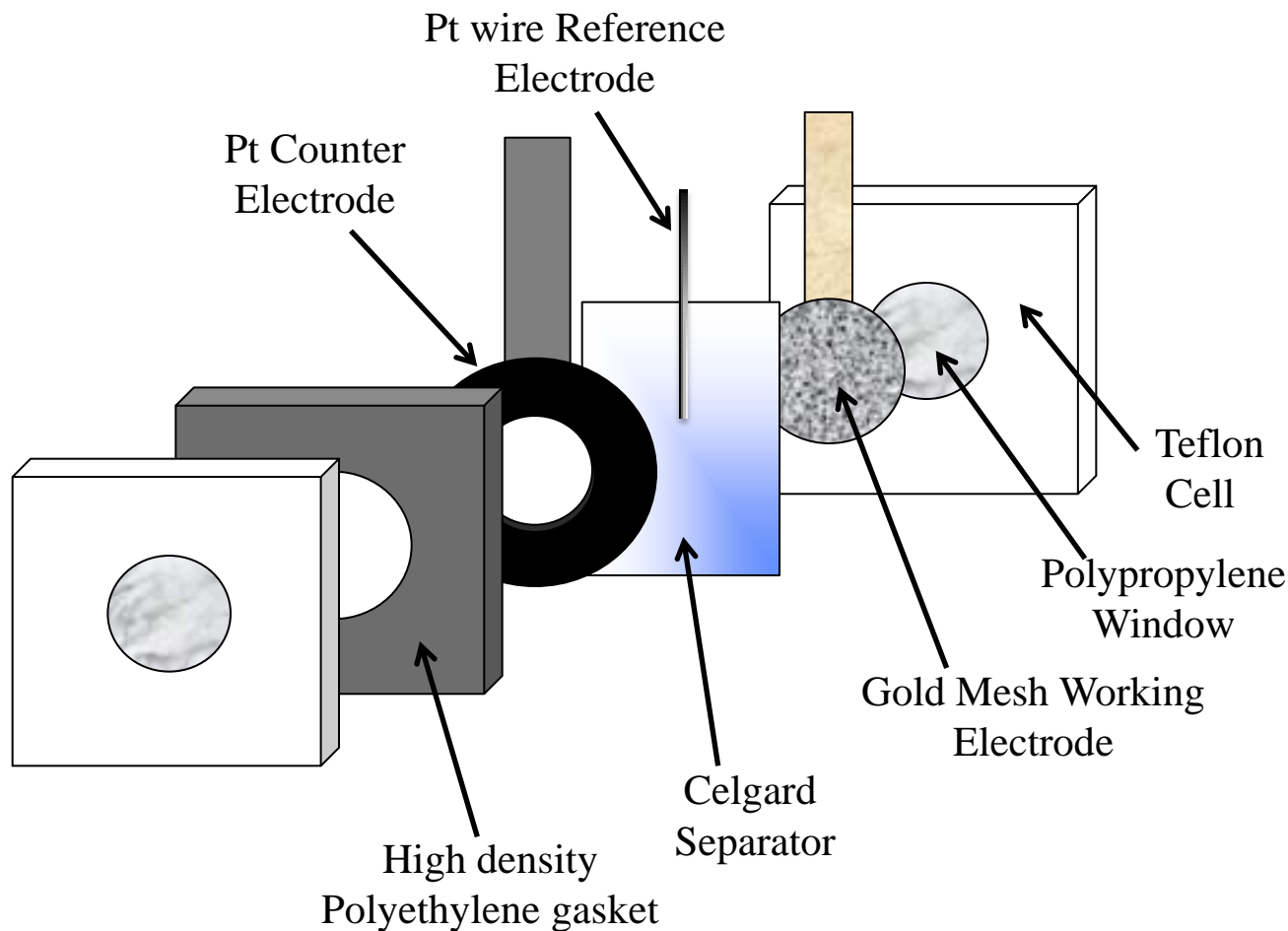


# Structure-Function: X-Ray Absorption





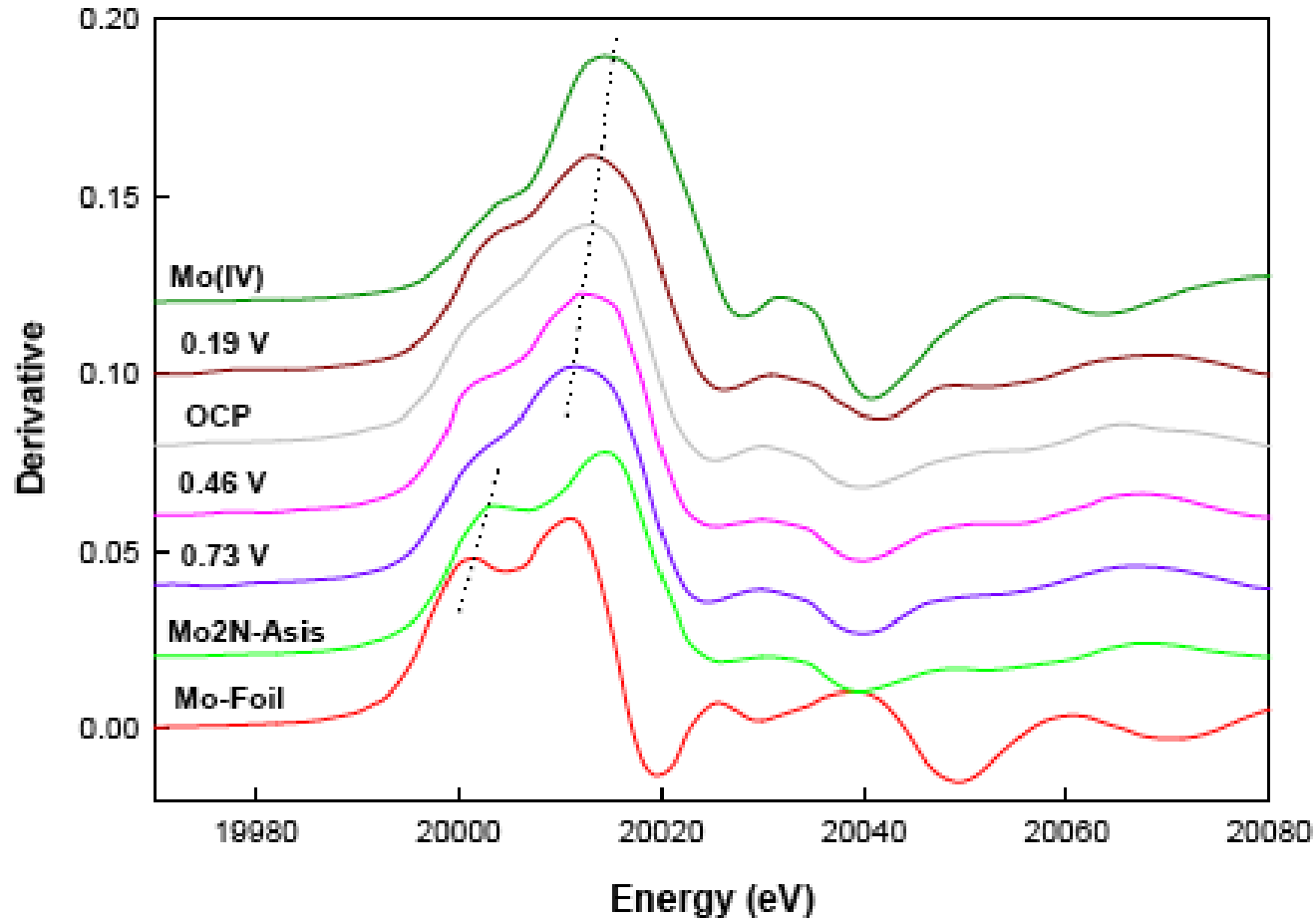
# Structure-Function: X-Ray Absorption





# Structure-Function: X-Ray Absorption

$\text{Mo}_2\text{N}$

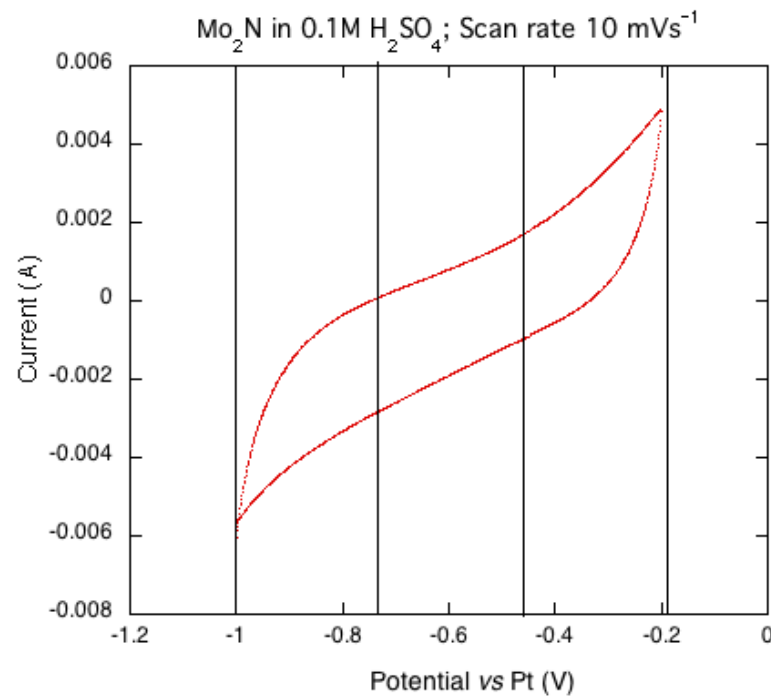
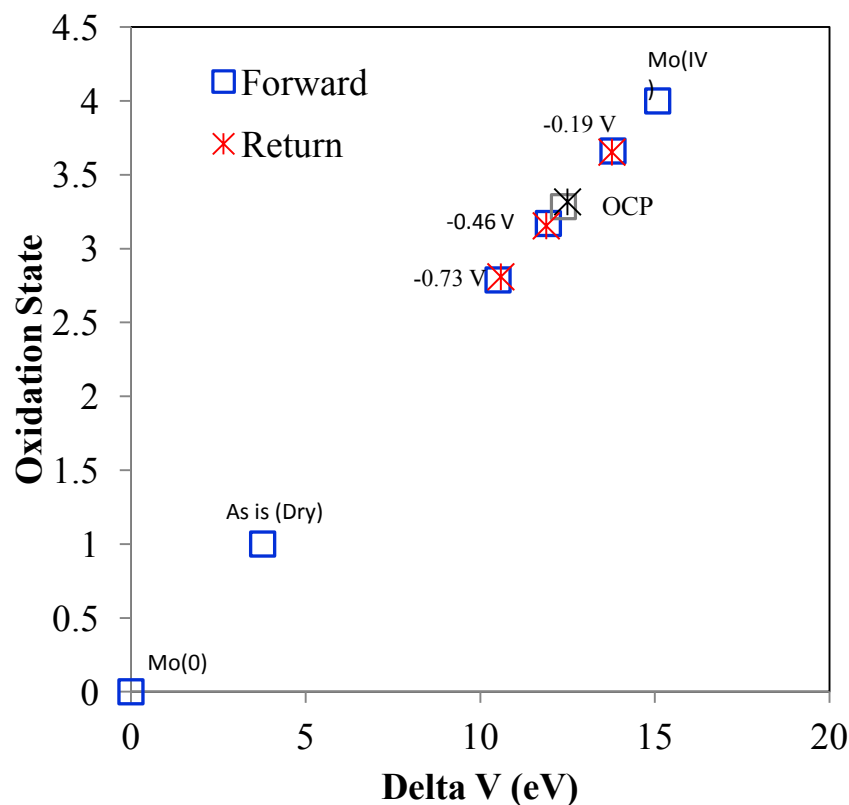


0.1M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$   
Voltage vs Pt reference



# Structure-Function: X-Ray Absorption

Mo<sub>2</sub>N



0.1M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>  
Voltage vs Pt reference



# Summary

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## Tasks for funding cycle:

- Fabricate prototype cells incorporating nitride and oxide electrode materials
  - Synthesized VN and oxides for use in supercapacitors
  - Assembled cells using Ni foil with >23 Wh/kg
  - Assembled cells using Ni foams with >14 Wh/kg
  - Demonstrated solution chemical method for production of high surface area VN
- Characterize prototype functional properties including capacitance, energy density and coulombic efficiency;
- Characterize prototype functional properties including cycle-life and low temperature tolerance
- Characterize charge storage mechanisms for VN and Mo<sub>2</sub>N
  - Determined active species
  - Observed redox of metals in VN and Mo<sub>2</sub>N